

March 2018

waternews



Your source for all things water

New WaterSaver Coupons Spring Forth

Springtime is in the air, and that means SAWS WaterSaver coupons are emerging from their winter slumber to inspire smart landscape makeovers.

Starting March 1, SAWS residential customers can apply for up to four \$100 WaterSaver coupons in order to replace part of your thirsty lawn with lush, drought-tolerant garden beds and/or permeable patios. That's a whopping \$400 in savings!

Imagine having your own rich garden bed, complete with radiant plants like butterfly iris, esperanza, mistflower, mountain laurel and more. These water-efficient landscapes will not only keep your lawn looking fresh for spring but also help you conserve water and save money on your water bill year-round.

Each coupon will cover only a portion of the cost of the plants or patio materials. Combine the coupons to your liking to create an inviting outdoor living space. Customers can apply for coupons through May 31.

For each coupon, you must remove at least 200 square feet of grass, since that's the single most water-demanding element in a residential landscape. You must also cap any irrigation heads in the area where you install beds or patios. By doing so, you can also qualify for our residential irrigation design rebate, to further lower the cost of your outdoor project.

If you have an automatic irrigation system, contact us to schedule a free irrigation consultation at consult@saws.org or 210-704-SAVE (7283).

Learn more and apply online at GardenStyleSA.com/coupons.



Hold Off on Lawn Watering for Now

Want to get your spring lawn off to a healthy start? Then let the hoses and sprinklers collect a few more cobwebs.

Even though things are starting to green up, most turf grasses don't hit their growing season stride until April. If you start watering too early, the weeds will certainly get a boost, but your lawn won't benefit much at all. With a few good spring showers, you might even push back watering until mid-April.

That's good news for your grass and your pocketbook. Since SAWS water rates are tiered, the more you use the more it costs per gallon. That could cause a big jump in your bill if you water too much or too early. So keep that in mind when you set your sprinkler system.

For more ways to reduce outdoor water costs and still have the prettiest yard on the block, visit GardenStyleSA.com.

Join the MySAWS Conversation:





Bird is the word! Join an observation walk and haiku writing exercise, Sunday, April 29, from noon to 3 p.m. at Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, 10750 Pleasanton Road. Also, enjoy poetry readings about our avian friends.

Event Calendar

San Antonio Book Festival

April 7

Central Library
600 Soledad St.
saplf.org/festival

Starving Artist Art Show

April 7-8

La Villita Historic Arts Village
418 Villita St.

Birding by Ear

April 14

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center
10750 Pleasanton Road
mitchelllake.audubon.org

Fiesta Fiesta Pin Pandemonium

April 19

Hemisfair Park
434 S. Alamo St.
fiesta-sa.org/events

Viva Botanica

April 21

San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place
sabot.org

Plants for Birds

April 28

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center
10750 Pleasanton Road
mitchelllake.audubon.org

Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency

210-704-SAWS (7297)
saws.org/waternews

Cape Town Water Crisis Unlikely in S.A.

It's a situation that's hard to fathom: A major international city — Cape Town, South Africa — faced with running out of water in the coming months.

Since this news broke, some have wondered if the same could happen in major U.S. cities. For San Antonio, the answer is a resounding "No."

Guided by San Antonio Water System's Water Management Plan, which maps out water supply and aggressive conservation efforts for the next 50 years, San Antonio is well positioned to deal with both growth and increasing periods of drought.

On the conservation side, San Antonio's total per capita water consumption has decreased significantly from 225 gallons in 1982 to 117 in 2016. By 2070, SAWS projects that number will fall to 88 gallons per capita per day.

Over the years, San Antonio has bolstered its water supplies through regional partnerships and new projects such as the 2017 opening of our brackish desalination plant. It can produce 12 million gallons per day of drinking water — enough to supply up to 53,000 households.

By 2020, the Vista Ridge project will provide 20 percent more water to San Antonio for the next 30-plus years. The diversification of water supplies gives us greater independence from the drought-sensitive Edwards Aquifer. In fact, nearly one-third of SAWS water distributed in 2017 came from eight other sources.

Learn more about SAWS water planning at WaterCitySA.com.

Chairman Commended for Legacy Leadership

San Antonio Water System Board Chairman Berto Guerra Jr. was named a 2018 Legacy Leader by the San Antonio Business Journal.

According to the Business Journal, to be named a Legacy Leader is "to be recognized for a lifetime of career success and community service. It is given to those who have had a hand in making San Antonio the city it is."

Guerra has been chairman of the SAWS Board of Trustees since 2011. He guided SAWS through the merger of the former BexarMet water district as well as the unprecedented public negotiations for the Vista Ridge pipeline.

Guerra is CEO of Avanzar Interior Technologies GP, LLC, which manufactures interior parts for trucks at the Toyota plant in San Antonio. He also is co-owner of Toyota of Boerne.



Support Project Agua at Pin Pandemonium

Fiesta season is just around the corner and that means it's time to dust off your sash, crazy hat or display duds of choice — and start collecting your 2018 medals.

Join SAWS in kicking off the celebration at Fiesta Fiesta, April 19 from 4-9 p.m. at Hemisfair Park, 434 S. Alamo St.



The opening ceremonies include the opportunity to purchase the new SAWS medal during Pin Pandemonium.

Proceeds from SAWS medal sales benefit Project Agua, the utility's payment assistance program for customers in need.

For more information, visit fiesta-sa.org/events.